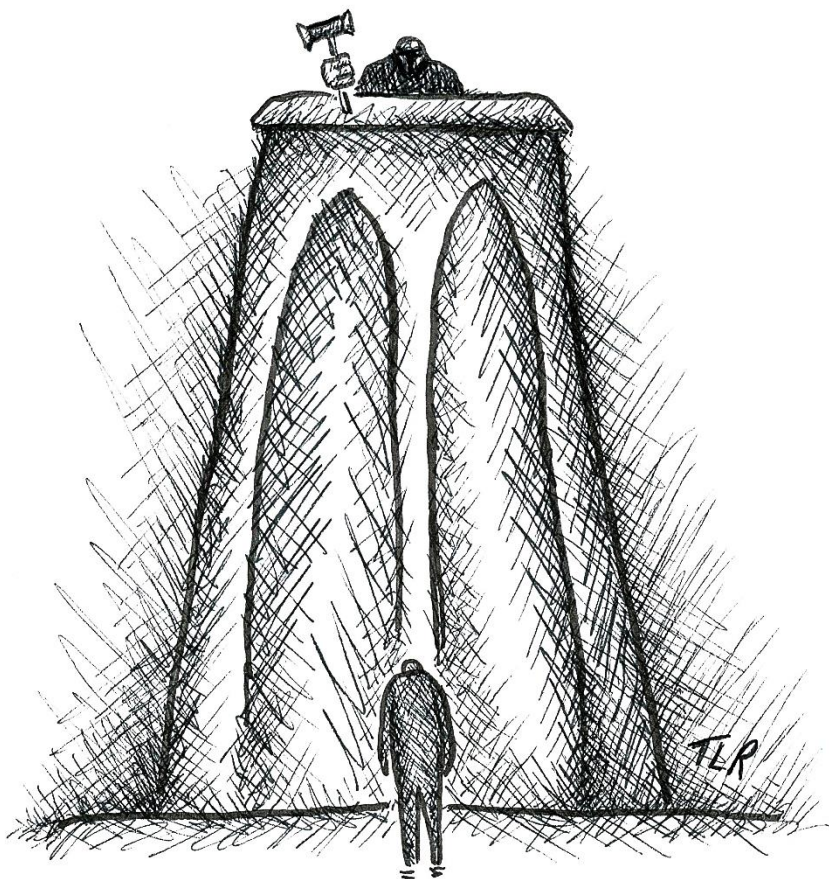


JUSTIFICATION:

Declared Righteous



"Can mankind be just before God? Can a man be pure before his Maker?"
- Job 4:17 (NASB'95)

Valley Grace Brethren Church of Armagh, PA
August 25th, AD 2024

THE LORD'S DAY

The Twenty-fifth Day of August, *in the Year of our Lord* 2024

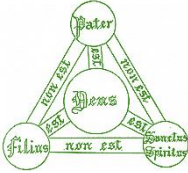


- ONE - IS - YOUR - MASTER - AND - ALL - YE - ARE - BRETHREN -



Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!

Sunday School—9:30 AM.



We continue our exciting and illuminating studies in Church History, looking at historic debates over the Triune nature of God. Please continue to pray for the success of our Sunday School program.

Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship:* *"Praise God from Whom all Blessings"* (#554)

Invocation.*

Hymn: *"And Can it Be?"* (#57; vv. 1, 3, 4, 5).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: Job 25:I-6.

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn: *"Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"* (#25).

Announcements.

Hymn: *"The Solid Rock"* (#215).

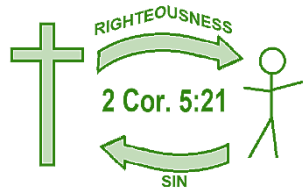
Dismissal for Children's Church.

Greeting One Another.

Message: *"JUSTIFICATION: DECLARED RIGHTEOUS."*

Closing Hymn:* *"Peace Like a River"* (#207).

Benediction.*



*Please stand, if able.

Cover art: "THE VERDICT," by Pastor Terry L. Reese



Week of Aug. 18 – Aug. 24

Sunday School—5; Morning Worship—15;

Midweek—4; Audio: “On Christ, pt. I”—14 listens;

Video: “On Christ II”—81 views; “By Faith”—48 views

AFRICA UPDATE



From Pastor Keith Merriman, Tue, Aug. 13, 4:14 PM

Dear beloved brethren,



Pastor Roger

Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ. Please be in prayer for Pastor Roger Yoda and pastor Theophilus as they travel to Rwanda Monday. Pastor Theophilus recently graduated from practorium and was ordained to the ministry. He is originally from Rwanda and he and Roger plan to travel there to see if Theophilus

should move back there to be a help with the Grace Brethren churches in that country. I recently informed you that the President of Rwanda closed thousands of churches. I spoke with Pastor Protais this morning and he says the churches are still closed and they have been threatened with jail if they try to meet in private homes! Please pray for the Lord to allow our churches to meet soon.

Also thanks to all of you for the wonderful offering last month. The needs in Africa continue to grow. Pastor Salomon called today and said they need a case of MacArthur study bibles (15) which are \$100 each. We want each of the practorium men in Africa to at least have a study Bible

God bless, Keith

“To be justified means more than to be declared “not guilty.” It actually means to be declared righteous before God. It means God has imputed or charged the guilt of our sin to His Son, Jesus Christ, and has imputed or credited Christ’s righteousness to us.”—Jerry Bridges

MIDWEEK PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY: WED., 6:30 PM

We continue our studies in Daniel chapter six.

JUSTIFICATION & IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS

Pronounced *legally* **RIGHTEOUS** & “**NOT GUILTY**” in Christ!

Pastor Terry L. Reese, Valley GBC of Armagh, PA; 8/25/24

Justification by faith alone (*sola fide*) was a central issue involved in the controversy between the Protestant Reformers and the Church of Rome. As Martin Luther affirmed, this is a core Biblical dogma and watershed truth upon which the Church of God either rises or falls.

JUSTIFICATION is a *forensic* term, meaning that it involves *declarative speech*—and it is the language of the *courtroom*. In Justification, God is making a **legal declaration** and pronouncing a **judicial verdict**. To be Justified is to be declared **legally righteous** in the sight of God.

But *how* can a radically sinful humanity be declared legally righteous in the sight of a Holy God—the God of *Truth*? If such a declaration was based upon a Divine **analysis** of our works & personal righteousness (as Romanism teaches), then man would be **utterly without hope!**

Isa. 64:6: “...we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags...”

Rom. 3:10: “THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE...”

Rom. 3:20: “...by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight...”

However, *through faith* (which joins us in *union* to Christ), the perfect **righteousness of Christ**—who uniquely met the totality of the Law’s demands—is **imputed**, or **reckoned** unto those who believe (Rom. 3:22), and the merits of Christ thus become ours. Imputation involves what the Reformers called a “glorious exchange.” On the one hand, we are no longer liable to Hell, for **our sins have been imputed** unto our crucified Savior, removing our guilt and thus rendering us **innocent** and “**not guilty**.” On the other hand, the righteousness of Christ is imputed unto us, making us *positively righteous* in the sight of God and fit for Heaven!

2 Cor. 5:21: “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Being *in Him*, we are thus found legally, perfectly, and positively *righteous* in the Father’s sight. Our Justification is not based upon anything within us, or intrinsic to us; rather, a **synthesis** has taken place; i.e., something had been *added* to life of the sinner that is not his own. What theologians have called an “**alien righteousness**” (that which is not of ourselves) has been *reckoned* unto us. This alien righteousness is not some “legal fiction” (as Roman Catholicism charges); rather, it is a real & genuine righteousness—that of *Christ Himself*—imputed unto those who are in Him and who belong to Him, through faith (Eph. 2:8-9, Phil. 3:9).

Php. 3:9: “And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith...”